



THE
RANDOM
HOUSE
DICTIONARY
OF THE
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

THE
RANDOM HOUSE
DICTIONARY
OF THE
ENGLISH

Here is the language which has served poets and pitchmen, statesmen and cheerleaders, scholars and scoundrels. It is rich and colorful and it is becoming a universal tongue . . . Here it is in a new unabridged edition, yours to examine and enjoy for ten days without obligation.

BLK/RT
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMITYVILLE
NEW YORK
PERMIT NO. 5000

12603
TED NELSON
BOX 1546
POUGHKEPSIE NY 12603

Linguists call English a "borrowing" language; within it are words from almost every other tongue—living and deceased—that men have ever spoken. We pilfer so unabashedly that English is more capable of nuance than any other language. We have more synonyms and we can turn nouns into verbs into adjectives into adverbs.

Whence comes English? Mostly from Latin and French and German. The Spanish gave us *cinch*, *canyon*, *plaza*, *guerrilla*, *cockroach*, *California*. Holland contributed *boom*, *yacht*, *iceberg*, *stoop*, *leak*, *dock*, *tub*, *stripe*. Italy donated *grotto*, *granite*, *balcony*, *stucco*, *trill*, *volcano*. From Greece came *acme*, *criterion*, *tyranny*, *lexicon*, *tonic*, *tantalize*, *music*. India exported hundreds of basic words, among them *camphor*, *ginger*, *opal*, *pepper*, *rice*, *sugar*, *junk*, *calico*, *chintz*. More than a thousand years ago, the Norsemen

brought to England *axle*, *dirt*, *leg*, *mire*, *skull*, *snare*, *steak*, *wing*, *odd*, *sly*, *ugly*, *dazzle*, *rake*, *snub*, *rid*.

In turn there is hardly a language which has

**This Magical Tongue,
English; So Rich, So
Untidy, So Full of
Splendid Borrowings**

not filched from us. The French have borrowed so many words, in fact, that there is a mild furor in Paris over "Franglais," English words

Gallicized by the younger generation. L'Académie Française, an institution devoted to purifying French and cleansing it of foreign elements, is distressed over the growing use of *futbol*, *bowling*, *camping*, *sporting*, *rosbif*, *drugstore*, *bifteak* (beefsteak), *weekend*. Spain has begun a campaign to defend Castilian from such Anglo-Americanisms as *gangsterismo*, *columnista*, *cocktel* (cocktail party). The Germans use *parken*, *twisten*, *hitchiken*, *beiprodukt*, *brandneu*.

That we have been born into the language which is now the most widely spoken on earth is a great gift. For those who cherish this rich tongue so well employed by our Chaucers, Shakespeares and Churchills, the new RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY will come as a worthy treasury of idiom and parlance, of tradition and experiment, of linguistic history and ideas.

WHY TIME-LIFE BOOKS HAS WAITED SO LONG TO BRING A DICTIONARY TO SUBSCRIBERS

Of all the many dictionaries in print, why has TIME-LIFE Books chosen THE RANDOM HOUSE UNABRIDGED EDITION to offer subscribers? Simply because we believe it to be the best dictionary ever designed for American families. In our search we asked ourselves these questions:

1. "IS IT USEFUL FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY?"

Some dictionaries are choked with technical terms, some incomplete, some stuffily pedantic. We wanted one that adults could use for general reference and youngsters for vocabulary building, help with school subjects. THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY fulfills both aims perfectly.

2. "IS IT ILLUSTRATED?"

A good family and office dictionary should define with pictures as well as words. THE RANDOM HOUSE is the only one that *pictures objects in proportion* (people playing musical instruments to show size; animals in their natural habitats). There are over 2,000 illustrations in all, especially commissioned for this Dictionary, including several hundred spot maps.

3. "IS IT UP-TO-DATE?"

No other dictionary is as modern and current as THE RANDOM HOUSE. Its entries include definitions for "Polaris," "frug," "hologram," "Telestar," "Common Market" and even show geographical points on the moon and on Mars.

4. "IS IT AUTHORITATIVE?"

Work began on this massive work 18 years ago; 10,000 educators were polled about their requirements; the financial expenditure was over three million dollars. Over 210 experts from every field were commissioned to lend their expertise to defining words and idioms, hundreds more answered special inquiries.

5. "ARE WORDS EASY TO FIND?"

Contrary to what you would expect, most dictionaries do *not* put all their listings in single alphabetical order. They often separate common names from proper names, and geographic names from the rest of the entries. THE RANDOM HOUSE *alphabetizes all entries*, one after the other, regardless of meaning. Thus "badminton" is followed by "Bado-

glio," which is followed by "bad-tempered." You need never shuffle from one section of this dictionary to another.

6. "DOES EXTRA MATERIAL SUPPLEMENT THE BASIC DICTIONARY?"

A glance through THE RANDOM HOUSE tells you it is really a reference center, with four bilingual foreign-language dictionaries . . . a vast atlas . . . lists of colleges and universities . . . weights and measures . . . signs and symbols . . . important documents . . . a style guide . . . and much more.

7. "IS IT AVAILABLE AT A FAMILY PRICE?"

Unabridged dictionaries usually sell for a great deal of money. They have to, because their customers are relatively few: schools, libraries, newspaper offices. But THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY is the first fine, unabridged dictionary to be priced within reach of most American families—about half what you'd expect to pay. It is complete, far-ranging, rich with material that even the most expensive dictionaries have not included.



PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER OF THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Yes, please reserve in my name THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE and send it to me as soon as it is printed. I may read and use this 2,096 page work for ten days free. If I decide to keep the DICTIONARY, I will pay only \$19.95 (plus postage and handling). If I am not delighted with the DICTIONARY after my 10 days free examination I may return it without cost or obligation.

☐ If I keep the DICTIONARY, I would like to pay in four equal installments.

AB6608
TED NELSON
BOX 1546
POUGHKEPSIE NY 12603

Please initial here _____

Mail this Reservation Card now to reserve your RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY at the pre-publication 20% saving

**THE RANDOM HOUSE
DICTIONARY OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Pre-publication Reservation:

- *Over 260,000 entries*—words defined, plurals, verbs, grammar, usage, synonyms, proper names, pronunciations.
- *2,087 illustrations*—specially-commissioned "spot" pictures, maps, diagrams, etc.
- *2,096 pages*—one of the largest one-volume dictionaries ever published in the United States.
- *Thumb indexed*— $9\frac{3}{4}$ pounds; over 3 inches thick; bound in genuine washable buckram cloth; gold-embossed cover; 3 kinds of paper stock.
- *Features*—4-language dictionary; C. S. Hammond Atlas with 27,000 entry gazetteer; major reference books; manual of style; signs and symbols; texts of important documents; history dates; much more.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN UNITED STATES

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

TIME-LIFE Books

TIME and LIFE Building

Chicago, Illinois 60611

FIRST CLASS
PERMIT NO. 22
CHICAGO, ILL.

VIA
AIR MAIL

Time-Life Books Announces a Special Pre-publication

Offer on the New and Unabridged Edition of

THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

You may use it for 10 days free. . .
and then, if you choose, purchase it
at a substantial pre-publication saving.

Dear Friend:

One of those rare events in publishing is about to occur, the issuance of a new unabridged dictionary: THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. The advance page proofs of this work were so good. . .its pictures so fresh and informational. . .its supplemental material so useful. . .that Time-Life Books arranged to offer this monumental work to our readers at the best possible terms:

We're offering the Dictionary -- for a few weeks only --
at a 20% discount below what we will charge after
publication date. . .

AND you may examine and use this lavish, authoritative volume
for 10 days without cost before you decide whether or not you
wish to own it permanently.

Why is THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY so large? Why has it taken a staff of 150 lexicographers many years to prepare -- even with the help of a battery of computers? Because it is an unabridged edition. Comprehensive. It is meant to become the definitive authority on this wonderfully flexible language we speak and write.

It will contain over 260,000 entries -- over a quarter of a million words with their meanings, pronunciations, origins, plurals, verb forms and usages. New words like "jet set" and "laser" and "camp" and "kook." Old words like "yclept," "yeoman," "spigot." The longest word: "pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis." Words from other tongues: "mustang" (Spanish); "algebra" (Arabic); "psychology" (Greek); "khaki" (Urdu); "café" (French). Words which immortalize people: "raglan," "spoonerism," "boycott," "gerrymander," "Freudian," "silhouette," "bowdlerize." Words that sound like their meaning: "crackle," "lullaby," "buzz," "ululate," "gurgle," "tintinnabulation." Words whose pronunciation is often uncertain: "flaccid," "harass," "macabre." Words few people use: "tenaculum," "feckless," "siccative," "plantigrade," "popple," "murrey."

"Any dictionary that hopes to be complete in this new age
must verge on the encyclopedia." -- E. Bliss, Books of the Month

To make this dictionary a complete family reference center in one volume, the editors have wrapped its 260,000 entries in layer upon layer of valuable material usually found only in a good encyclopedia.

* MAPS add flesh and form to THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY. In addition to several hundred detailed maps scattered through the text, there is a complete and separate 100-page world and U. S. atlas-gazetteer bound in. Fully indexed, this atlas (newly prepared by C. S. Hammond) pictures --

in 64 pages of color -- every country, from the most stable (Switzerland) and tiniest (The Vatican), to the largest (China), most beleaguered (Israel) and strife-torn (Viet Nam). For each major area, separate political, geophysical and economic maps are included.

* DRAWINGS have been specially commissioned for this dictionary. Thousands of them illustrate musical and scientific instruments, flowers, animals, ships, parts of the body, furniture and much more. Each is precise, accurate and in scale. You know immediately how large an object is.

* FOUR FOREIGN LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES are included: French, Spanish, Italian, and German -- all into English and vice versa. These are a wonderful help for youngsters in school, for adults planning trips abroad and for readers of any age.

* QUOTATIONS from the Bible, Shakespeare, Lincoln, Churchill, Kennedy, Sartre and hundreds of other sources make this dictionary a valuable source book for writers, speech makers and those who want to improve their conversation. When you need the perfect phrase, the succinct expression, you'll find it in this large dictionary.

These features, comprehensive as they are, do not exhaust the dictionary's material by any means. Important documents have also been included in THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY. Here are the texts of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the U. N. Charter. The geographical section contains air distances between major cities of the world, highest mountains and deepest points on earth, as well as the principal lakes, rivers, islands, waterfalls. There are metric tables, a detailed manual of style for written English, lists of the U. S. Presidents and Vice-Presidents and major dates of world history.

"Probably more necessary words have been added to the language in the last quarter century than in the preceding five centuries."
-- T. M. Bernstein, Assistant Managing Editor, The New York Times.

Think of it! Since 1940, we've been coining words at a faster rate than at any other time in our history. Many of these are scientific words demanded by new inventions and ideas in electronics, chemistry, biology, physics, space. THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY contains enough technical terminology for every family, even those with students involved with the sciences in high school and college. Indeed, so thoroughly does this Dictionary cover science that the technical words can virtually be considered to comprise a separate dictionary in themselves.

Naturally, a dictionary of the size and scope of this one is not the work of one, two or even a dozen experts. Like an encyclopedia whose articles are written by commissioned specialists, THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY draws upon the knowledge of world-renowned authorities in scores of fields.

Law -- Professor Elliott E. Cheatham,
School of Law, Vanderbilt University.

Electronics -- Dean W. L. Everitt,
College of Engineering, University of
Illinois.

Geography -- Dr. Meredith F. Burrill,
Office of Geography, U. S. Department
of the Interior.

Government -- Professor Mario Einaudi,
Department of Government,
Cornell University.

Underworld Slang -- Detective Charles Kelly, New York Police Department.

Logic -- Professor Ernest Nagel, Department of Philosophy, Columbia University.

Clothing -- Mrs. Beatrice Zelin, Fashion Institute of Technology.

Bible -- Professor John Knox, Union Theological Seminary.

Motion Pictures -- Eustace Lycett, Walt Disney Productions.

Medieval History -- Professor Sidney R. Packard, Department of History, Smith College.

Optics -- Professor Stanley S. Ballard, Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of Florida.

Pronunciation -- Professor Arthur J. Bronstein, Department of Speech, Queens College of the City University of New York.

These, of course, are only a few of the experts contributing to THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. There are more than 200 in all, ranging from Charles Goren on Cards, Professor Eric P. Hamp (Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago) on Grammar and Professor Henry Steele Commager (Chairman, Department of American Studies, Amherst College) on American History, to Professor Walter Piston (Department of Music, Harvard University) on Music and Roy Basler (Director of Reference, Library of Congress) on Biography.

How to use this Dictionary for maximum benefit

When this huge work (2,096 pages, 9½ x 12½ inches, 9½ pounds, over five million words) arrives at your home for free examination, please share it with all your family; it is planned to serve everyone. It is thumb indexed so that words can be found quickly. "How do you spell this word?" "What is the meaning of that word?" "What is the opposite of this one?" "Are 'flammable' and 'inflammable' the same?" "When did Chaucer live?" "How does a davenport differ from a sofa?" "What is 'diploid' . . . 'haruspex' . . . 'dagnet'?" "What does a dragonfly eat?" "Where would you find a Flemish scroll? A kernos?" "How do you tie a sheepshank knot?" "Is 'mawkish' an exact synonym for 'sentimental'?" Young people will discover in this Dictionary a source of information on every school subject. Educators recommend to parents that they supply youngsters with a good dictionary. "Dictionaries are probably the most useful reference books in any home," says Nancy Larrick, former president of the International Reading Association. And, reports The Reader's Digest, ". . . there is a remarkable connection between a good vocabulary and success -- in every field of activity tests show that. . . knowledge of the exact meaning of a large number of words accompanies outstanding success."

The joys of unexpected knowledge

Among the delights of a dictionary of this kind are the unexpected discoveries you make as you browse through its pages. You begin with a search for a correct spelling or meaning and find yourself exploring unsuspected new corridors, opening strange doors, encountering interesting new words. You find that "tough" is slang for "cool," which is slang for "hip," an up-to-date version of "hep." You learn that the "stint" is a type of sandpiper. That the word "run" has 172 different definitions. And a "bugeye" is a boat. To be sure, this isn't all immediately useful information. But isn't the mark of a cultivated person the store of knowledge he possesses, beyond that which he uses every day?

A DOUBLE PRIVILEGE:

1. THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY comes to you on a 10-day free trial, without obligation to buy.

When it is printed, first edition copies of THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE will be shipped to interested readers on an attractive basis: the enclosed reservation card will bring you this massive volume for 10 days without cost. There is no obligation to buy it: just to return the book after that time if you are not convinced that it is the most useful and complete one-volume dictionary you have ever seen.

2. If you decide to keep it, the special pre-publication saving is considerable.

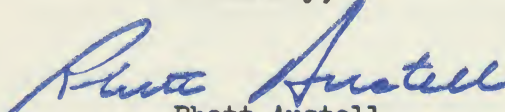
This dictionary has been prepared to sell at a suggested retail price of \$25. And it is a better buy at that price than dictionaries selling for \$45 and \$50, indeed, at any price. But Time-Life Books has arranged to offer it -- in advance of publication only -- for substantially less: \$19.95, a saving of 20%. After publication, it will be \$25 for everyone.

Mailing the enclosed card does not obligate you to buy the dictionary. It merely says that you wish to examine it for 10 days free...and then, if you decide to, you may exercise your option to purchase it (paying in convenient installments, if you wish).

This is one of those opportunities to take advantage of an offer "ahead of the crowd." It doesn't come very often and rarely indeed when such a big beautiful book is involved: nearly 2,100 pages, over 2,000 specially commissioned drawings and spot maps, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, bound in real buckram cloth with handsome ribbon marker and gold-embossed cover. It's a sumptuous example of the arts of printing and binding. . .and an awesome work of scholarship -- one of those happy blendings of both that result in a monumental and memorable book.

I hope you'll send back the enclosed card today so that we can set aside a copy of THE RANDOM HOUSE DICTIONARY for your 10-day free examination when it is published soon. There is no obligation to buy it; but if you decide to, I'm sure you'll be delighted for years with your investment.

Cordially,


Rhett Austell
Publisher

RA/RDE